

# Dakota Counsel

March 2017

ORGANIZING \* RESEARCH \* ADVOCACY \* EDUCATION

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## Why Organize?

*Donny Nelson, DRC Member, Keene ND*

I joined Dakota Resource Council because someone came around organizing on an issue I was interested in, and they were trying to do something about it. The issue was captive supply rules for livestock reform, and it was important to me that we win that change.

There's nothing stronger than folks working together for strong local control. Organizing is the strongest way to try to influence government. Legislators say they want people to get involved in the process. But when you do, they hate you, label you. That's because through organizing you can make change happen. The strongest way to be involved is with a group of local people.

### **What does it mean to organize?**

Organizing is when a group of people -- we call it community -- have the same views on issues, and we get together to work on our common goal. It can be local or it can be statewide or national. People come from all walks of life and often agree on some things and disagree on others. But each is caring about your community and what's going on. Community organizing like DRC does is not having an organization run from top down, but from the bottom up. People have the voice, not the hired gun. Once you've been around for a while and work on multiple issues, you build credibility and knowledge.

When you are working with people who know community organizing, like DRC and WORC, they can teach you how to do the needed things to do to organize. People usually know their own strengths and weakness. You can be a spokesperson, a leader, call people, write letters, visit your neighbors, or work behind the scenes, do research, set up meetings or events, and a lot more. It's all important. When you do this, you can get more comfortable and more knowledgeable. You do what you feel you are comfortable with.

### **What are examples of successful organizing at DRC?**

Our campaigns on anti-dumping of wheat from Canada and ranchers shutting the border down on beef. People came from all over, especially from several nearby states. It started with a small group and people we knew. Others knew more people and they met and talked with their neighbors in Stanley, New Town, Keene, and other places. When talking with others, people always took someone who was not the person's next door neighbor, so people would know there were lots of people involved. It took a lot of doing and more good people got on board. It starts very small, very local and goes from there. We went to key people in the state, legislators, bankers, key leaders. And we took the message to the people.



*Donny Nelson is a Keene, ND rancher and business owner, and is on his township council. He has been the chair of DRC and WORC, the chair of DRC and WORC oil and gas task forces/teams. Currently, he's the chair of local affiliate MECTA and he's recently returned to being MECTA's representative to the DRC Board of Directors.*

## ABOUT US

Dakota Resource Council believes that the most enduring change comes from the bottom up. DRC members organize to take actions to influence public opinion and shape public policy to advance DRC's mission and build people power. As a non-partisan grassroots organization, DRC members organize on issues impacting our three focus areas of oil and gas, agriculture and food, and clean energy to bring long-term institutional change to communities across North Dakota.

## AFFILIATES

**Fort Berthold Protectors of Water & Earth Rights (POWER)**  
Lisa DeVille, Chair

**Badlands Area Resource Council (BARC)**  
Linda Weiss, Chair

**Mckenzie County Energies & Taxation Association (MCETA)**  
Donny Nelson, Chair

**Missouri Valley Resource Council (MVRC)**  
Chair Vacancy

**South Agassiz Resource Council (SARC)**  
Bette Stieglitz, Chair

## DRC STAFF

**Don Morrison, Executive Director**  
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## New Year, New Wheels

When our long-time business manager, Aleta Hendricks, decided to retire she fittingly requested her retirement party also be a DRC fundraiser. With a growing staff it was clear that one staff car was just not going to be sufficient. As a statewide member-led organization, organizers frequently travel across the state to meet with members, help recruit new members, participate in and lead trainings, help plan events, and much more!

So on July 15 (Aleta's party, as requested!) we kicked off the 100 Donors, \$100, 100 Days capital campaign. The campaign wrapped up at the end of the DRC Annual Meeting in New Town on October 22, 2016.

We were able to raise over \$16,000 with donations from over 60 members!

Earlier this year we were able to purchase a new staff vehicle (shown right) and plan to purchase a second later this year.

A very heartfelt thank you to all the members



Organizer, Cecilia Montesdeoca, excited to be in the field with our trusty new staff vehicle! Special thanks to Sample Auto Sales, Manning, ND



ABOVE: Staff Jenn Weisgerber, Claire Lowstuter, Tim Glaza, Don Morrison, Liz Anderson, Nicole Donaghy, Sonda Sauers & Cecilia Montesdeoca after the Annual Meeting



LEFT: Liz A, Liz Loos, Nicole, Sonda, & Cecilia at the March Board Meeting

From all of us to all of you for all you do, thank you.

### In Loving Memory of Dan Neuhrohr



DRC Board member Dan Neuhrohr, 65, passed away January 8 at his home in Dodge ND. He was a man who valued family and was an active, well-respected leader in his community, church, and union. He was part of the United Mine Workers, serving as a union leader for many years, President of the Dodge School Board, Dunn County Landowners, St. Paul's Catholic Church, and served on DRC's Board of Directors in 1996 and again this year. He brought great value and perspective to the DRC Board. He will be greatly missed.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### CURRENT OFFICERS

Craig Scott, Chair  
April Fairfield, Vice Chair  
Linda Weiss, Past Chair  
Carol Ventsch, Secretary  
Jeremy Wirtz, Assistant Secretary  
Cheryl Kary, Treasurer  
Karen Erickstad, Assistant Treasurer

### MEMBERS AT LARGE

Jeri Lynn Bakken  
Lisa DeVille  
Todd Leake  
**AFFILIATE REPS**  
Walter DeVille & Shelly Ventsch, POWER  
Donny Nelson, MCETA  
Ed Gruchalla & Lynn Wolff, SARC  
Daryl Bragg & Dexter Perkins, GFC3

## Partnering for Clean Energy

DRC is leading efforts to build a state table, or coalition, of organizations regarding clean energy development in the state that will reduce North Dakota's carbon footprint. Partners of the state table will certainly not agree on everything, so the lengthy table-building process is busy identifying and developing the common goals and efforts where partners can agree to work together. The table is seeking a wide diversity of organizations to participate. A key principle in putting together any effort is to make sure that justice for and participation by workers and marginalized communities are incorporated throughout the entire process.

At this time, there are about 18 organizations considering becoming partners of the North Dakota State Table. In addition, table discussions have included and learned from guests such as labor union leaders, college students, business people, and scientists. DRC's participation will be guided by our member-led Clean Energy Working Group which has appointed Kyra Hill of Bismarck as the DRC representative to the table. At DRC's October 2016 Annual Meeting, DRC members approved a resolution supporting just transition, which is an important part of the state table's direction. Efforts will include the many changes, methods, technologies, policies, directions, efficiencies, and renewable enterprises that North Dakota can use to reduce our carbon footprint. The purpose of the work is to ensure our posterity will have the right to breathe clean air, drink clean water, and live on clean land.

Beginning in mid-March, DRC field organizer Liz Loos took on DRC's organizing responsibilities with the clean energy state table. She's been working with DRC since mid-November 2016.



Can it be fun?

It's a lot of fun. You meet a lot of people with a lot of views, different views. You can make it not fun, but it doesn't have to go there. You go to classes on how to do it. It's a pretty uphill battle. You don't want to get burnt out, so you need to make it kind of fun.

### How's DRC doing today on our organizing?

Today there's a lot of good positive organizing on some of the oil field work and education-wise for people. The process on the oil refinery, we don't know if it'll be a win or not. But, local DRC members have put in the forefront that the state agencies don't really know what they are talking about. They can't even answer the questions.

DRC has been working on rules to stop flaming and venting, and this has brought in a lot of people. People are joining in this campaign for different reasons --- health reasons, waste reasons, economic reasons. And that makes us stronger.

Community organizing is not an easy task. It is messy, hard, not for the faint of heart, but it is very personally rewarding.

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Another example is DRC's local affiliate campaign on the landfill in Grand Forks. Basically, a few people who didn't want it and didn't know what to do connected with DRC and got organized. Without organizing, it would have gone through where they didn't want it.

# AG AND FOOD

## Corporate Farming Lawsuit Background and Talking Points

### WHAT YOU

#### CAN DO:

Every North Dakotan has a stake in preserving our state's legacy of family farming and ranching. You can make a difference:

- Share this fact sheet with your friends and neighbors and spread the word about the importance of the anti-corporate farming law
- Call your local Farm Bureau members and county officers and ask them to pressure ND Farm Bureau to withdraw their lawsuit
- Write a letter to the editor to your local newspaper supporting the anti-corporate farming law
- Visit: [drcinfo.org/ndfb](http://drcinfo.org/ndfb)

Join Dakota Resource Council and unite with like-minded people to stand with our fellow North Dakotans, and neighbors who care about promoting sustainable use of natural resources and family-owned and

In June 2016, North Dakotans supported family farmers and ranchers by voting overwhelmingly – 76% – to keep our state's anti-corporate farming law intact. But now the North Dakota Farm Bureau is challenging the law in court. The Farm Bureau leadership is out of step with North Dakotans.

### NORTH DAKOTANS REJECT CORPORATE FARMING

In the 2015, North Dakota legislators passed a law allowing non-family corporations to own and operate dairy and swine farms. People across the state rallied to put the new law on the ballot as a referendum – Measure 1. **On June 14, 2016, the North Dakotans rejected Measure 1 by 76% to 24% vote.**

### THE LAWSUIT

In its lawsuit, the North Dakota Farm Bureau claims the anti-corporate farming law violates the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution. The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in Bismarck, North Dakota.

If the Farm Bureau succeeds, any type of corporation, governmental body, or conservation group could buy land. The Farm Bureau's lawsuit is part of its national political strategy to remove legal obstacles to the corporate takeover of American agriculture.

Dakota Resource Council and the North Dakota Farmers Union have intervened in the lawsuit to defend the anti-corporate farming law. Dakota Resource Council has a long history of advocating on behalf of family farmers, the lifeblood of North Dakota.

The Farm Bureau, through its lawsuit, threatens to sacrifice our livelihoods and values while subverting the agriculture economy we rely on.

### BACKGROUND

North Dakota's anti-corporate farming law has been in place since 1932. This cherished law does permit some farm and ranch corporations that can help family ownership. None of these give non-family shareholders a say in a North Dakota farm.

- Allows family farmers to form corporations or LLCs to farm if:
  - No more than 15 people who are related (parent, child, stepchild, grandparent, great-grandparent, grandchild, great-grandchild, sibling, aunt/uncle, nephew/niece, first cousin, spouse) are members or shareholders of the corporation or LLC
  - Officers and directors are shareholders actively engaged in operating the farm, and at least one shareholder is living on or operating the farm
  - An annual average of at least 65% of the gross income comes from farming operations
- Allows anyone, including neighbors or extended family, to form non-family partnerships to farm (as long as none of the partners are non-family-farm LLCs or Corporations.)
- Allows for the formation of cooperatives so long as 75% of their members are actual farmers
- Allows LLCs and corporations to own land if it is used for coal mining, energy conversion, commercial or residential development, or other industrial business operations, but not farming
- Restricts conservation nonprofit groups from buying farmland, unless the purchase is approved by the Governor
- Prohibits other corporations and LLCs to farm/ranch, own or lease farm/ranch land



## DRC Granted Intervener Status to Defend Anti-corporate Farming Law

BISMARCK, ND – On January 11, 2017, Judge Daniel Hovland of the United States District Court in Bismarck granted Dakota Resource Council the opportunity to intervene “as of right” to defend North Dakota’s anti-corporate farming law, joining the North Dakota Farmers Union, and the North Dakota Attorney General as co-defendants. Judge Hovland recognized that “much is at stake” in this case and that DRC’s involvement will help “sharpen the presentation of issues upon which the court so largely depends for illumination of difficult constitutional questions.” DRC is very pleased with the decision. DRC’s intent is to uphold the voice of North Dakotans, who voted overwhelmingly to reject corporate farming this June by a 3-1 margin.

“This case is about the soul of agriculture. Citizens are told that their long-held values are getting in the way of progress, or that the family farm is obsolete. But the truth is just the opposite – the family farm is our future,” said Sarah Vogel, DRC member and former North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner. “It is critical for groups like DRC to intervene because they help the people who live and work here to have a voice in these critical decisions about our future.”

The North Dakota Farm Bureau filed a lawsuit weeks before the statewide vote in June to repeal the entire anti-corporate farming law.

“In my view, the people spoke very clearly about the importance of keeping the anti-corporate farming law. Corporate farming will not strengthen our rural communities. We have an ideal system of family farm agriculture right here in North Dakota,” said Link Reinhiller, DRC member and a former board member of the Farm Bureau. “It’s the agriculture of the future, where food safety, food security, and good stewardship are a way of life.”

“In North Dakota, there’s a finite amount of land and resources for agricultural production. Moving production from independent farmers and ranchers to corporate control means that our finite resources go directly into the control of the corporations,” said Jeri Lynn Bakken, a DRC member and rancher in Adams County. “Under the corporate structure, long-term productivity and stewardship of land and natural resources takes a backseat to shareholders’ profits.”


Dakota Resource Council is represented by Baumstark Braaten, a law firm in Bismarck.

Calling Out NDFB and NoDak Mutual

# CALL OUT CAMPAIGN!



**North Dakota  
Farm Bureau**



In January and February, DRC ran radio ads on several stations letting listeners know that NoDak Mutual Insurance policyholders are North Dakota Farm Bureau members, and therefore, they are part of an organization fighting to dismantle the anti-corporate farming law. We encouraged them to contact DRC to learn more. During the second week of the ads, in an exchange of letters between our attorneys and NoDak Mutual’s attorneys, we clearly established that, yes, we are correct that the company’s policyholders must be North Dakota Farm Bureau members.

To call out the NDFB visit: [drcinfo.org/ndfb](http://drcinfo.org/ndfb)

**Farm Bill:** DRC’s Ag and Food Task Force is beginning work on Farm Bill issues. If you have ideas please contact Task Force Co-Chairs Jeri Lynn Bakken (701-376-3333) or Todd Leake (701-213-0733).

**Buffalo CAFO:** Concerned Citizens of Buffalo, including many DRC members, turned out February 6 for a Cass County District Court hearing regarding issues with permitting a proposed 9,000 hog factory near town. See [West Fargo Pioneer](#) article for more information.

**Ag & Food Organizer:** DRC is looking for a full time Ag & Food Organizer.

To apply or  
share this  
opportunity  
visit

[drcinfo.org/job](http://drcinfo.org/job)



## Bureau of Land Management's Methane Reduction Rule Up for Repeal

*Citizens Favor Regulation for Clean Air Standards*

The House of Representatives passed a resolution (H.J.Res.36) under the Congressional Review Act (CRA) on February 3, which would nullify the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Methane Reduction Rule. Members of the DRC Oil and Gas Task Force as well as Fort Berthold POWER have tirelessly worked on preventing the BLM methane reduction rule from being repealed forever.

The CRA has already passed the House of Representatives and has been at a standstill in the Senate. DRC members have been coordinating with our allies to pressure our Senators in DC to not vote for the CRA.

DRC and POWER member Ruth Buffalo travelled to Washington DC to meet with delegation to discuss the effects of repealing these rules. Ruth is a member of the Three Affiliated Tribes and is a public health professional. While in DC, Ruth met with Senator Heitkamp to deliver a letter signed by members of the TAT tribal business council in support of the rule.

North Dakota Senators await a vote on the CRA, consequently if Congress votes in favor of the repeal, they will deter the ability of the BLM to manage an array of issues associated with drilling on public and tribal lands. While the oil and gas industry and its supporters in Congress may cheer these efforts, this action will prevent the federal government from creating similar rules.



*DRC & POWER member, Ruth Buffalo*

Wiping out these new standards at the whim of the industry endangers our climate, pollutes our air, and wastes tribal and state tax dollars.

According to a recent poll via Mason-Dixon Polling & Research by strong majorities, adult residents of North Dakota support state and federal laws designed to minimize wasteful natural gas leaks caused by industry practices (66%), federal regulations on public and tribal lands that minimize the waste (76%), and require energy companies to invest in technology to make that happen (79%).

In addition the poll found state and federal laws are supported by 72% of those who identify as Democrats, 60% who describe themselves as Republicans, and 59% of Independents.

North Dakotans approve of the strong state level efforts to reduce flaring and want tougher state standards applied at the:

- Federal level with 70% in favor
- And at the tribal level with 69% in favor



*Ruth Buffalo, DRC & POWER member, in Washington DC*

*Ruth Buffalo lobbies delegation to uphold BLM Methane Reduction Rule*



In fact, the poll shows that Republican support is the strongest in applying North Dakota's standards to tribal lands with 74% in favor.

The poll shows that voting to weaken regulations designed to reduce wasteful gas leaks and hold companies accountable that do not invest in technology to help reduce those leaks has no up-side for our elected leadership.

## Dakota Access Pipeline Easement Issued

The up and down battle over the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) continued through the first three months of 2017. On January 18, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) published a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register to complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL).

This represented another win in the campaign by DRC members, along with many allies, urging the Obama Administration and USACE to conduct an EIS on the crossing under Lake Oahe, north of the Standing Rock Reservation. Yet on January 24, shortly after taking office, President Trump signed an Executive Memo that pressured the USACE to rescind the Notice of Intent and issue the final easement.

With no immediate word from USACE regarding the EIS, DRC staff and members prepared comments for the public comment period. Although the public comment period was supposed to be open until February 20 on February 7, the USACE issued the final easement to Energy Transfer Partners without completing the EIS. Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Tribe immediately filed a lawsuit to stop construction until the EIS is completed.

We expect that US District Judge James Boasberg will rule sometime in April on the tribes' request to overturn the federal permission for the Lake Oahe Crossing and continue the EIS process.



## Dunn County Rad-Waste Landfills

On February 14 the Dunn County Planning and Zoning Board held a special meeting to discuss possible language to be written into the county land use code for the development of 'special waste' or radioactive oilfield waste landfills.

An 8-page report produced by KLJ listed conditions for permitting and siting the landfills. Conditions included dust control provisions, siting near surface water, and liners. The report suggested that the County bring its land use code up to par with State Health Department rules and language from the Century Code.

The meeting ran precisely for an hour while a KLJ representative went through the proposed language. Dunn County citizens were present to ask questions and give suggestions on each section. Only half of the language was discussed due to time limitations.

The language is still under consideration by the planning & zoning board. DRC members are working with organizer Nicole Donaghy to craft and submit suggestions that aim to protect land, air, and water.

*KLJ Rep. discusses radioactive oilfield waste landfill code*

*Dunn County*



Around \$76 million worth of natural gas drilled on North Dakota's federal and tribal lands is flared, leaked, and vented by oil and gas companies every year without paying royalties. These resources belong to tribes and taxpayers.

And now, Congress is considering rolling back the new rule that cracks down on that waste. North Dakota can't afford to go back to business as usual.



*As part of DRC's long-term campaign to reduce flaring this ad was placed in the Bismarck Tribune urging Se. Heitkamp and Sen. Hoeven to uphold the BLM's "No Waste Rule"*

Senators Heitkamp and Hoeven:

# **STOP THE WASTE.**

Don't repeal BLM's natural gas waste rule.

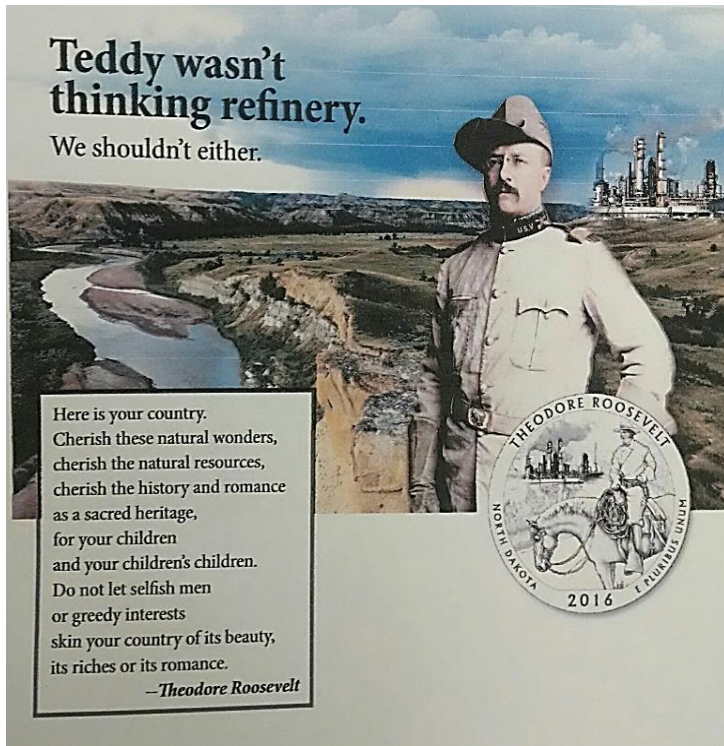
[drcinfo.org](http://drcinfo.org)

PAID FOR BY DAKOTA RESOURCE COUNCIL.

## Board Approves Affiliate Assessment

During the January board meeting, the DRC Board of Directors approved an affiliate re-assessment for Missouri Valley Resource Council, expanding the assessment to include Burleigh, Morton, and Sioux Counties. As a grassroots organization, DRC is founded on strong and healthy affiliates organizing on a local level. As such, Liz Loos is focusing organizing efforts on building one or more local affiliates in the region through meetings with members and potential members, and working with the local core leadership team of Karen Van Fossan, Jim Kambeitz, Angie McGinnis, and Cheryl Kary.

These efforts provide information about issues that are both important to and affecting the lives of members in the area. Liz has met with students at United Tribes Technical College, groups of residents of Standing Rock, students and faculty at Sitting Bull College, and many individuals in Morton and Burleigh Counties. Three common themes have emerged throughout Liz's one-on-ones and meetings. These are support for clean energy, the need to build toward more positive relationships between Native Americans and non-natives in Bismarck/Mandan, and concern about the Davis refinery planned for just south of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. In the coming months, the local team will plan house parties to engage current local members and recruit new members.



### BARC MEMBERS RAISE CONCERNS AT WATER COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING FOR DAVIS REFINERY

In February local members of Badlands Area Resource Council attended a public informational hearing in Medora sponsored by the North Dakota Water Commission, the agency responsible for the proposed Davis Refinery's water appropriation permit. The public hearing was held at the request of those who submitted public comment to learn more about water impacts on the Dakota aquifer. Those in opposition to the refinery left with more questions than answers. The Water Commission and SEH, the refinery's engineering company, undermined questions raised regarding the long-term sustainability and quality of the Dakota aquifer. The Water Commission and SEH said there are no significant concerns that the refinery will impact the aquifer, despite possible disposal injection into the same aquifer, current lack of monitoring water quality, and lack recent studies addressing replenishing rates. BARC members are demanding that more recent studies be conducted on the

aquifer before making a decision to move forward instead of relying on the one 2011 study mentioned, and that the Water Commission establish a baseline study for better monitoring practices and provide testing of local residents' water flow.

### South Agassiz Resource Council

SARC members are planning with other groups in town regarding ideas for solar energy in the area. Members also support using the state's share of money from a court settlement, in which Volkswagen was fined for rigging emissions tests, to fund electric vehicle charging stations along major highways. SARC is also talking about support for switching from coal to gas at NDSU's power plant. The group has taken a several month break from meetings and plans to meet again in April.

The public hearing in February served as a catalyst to bring local BARC members together to organize to protect North Dakota's legacy in the Badlands. BARC members with organizer Cecilia Montesdeoca have secured a committed group of members to work on the issue, and have come together to discuss their goals and strategy. Moving forward BARC is beginning conversations with allies for intervening in the remaining permitting processes: water appropriation, water discharge, and air quality. The California-based Meridian Energy Group Inc., has purchased over 700 acres of land, 3 miles south of North Dakota's only national park to build a crude oil refinery. In addition to concerns from local residents about the water usage this large-scale project will have on the arid region of the state, a refinery located adjacent to a national park is not responsible development. In its current siting location, the proposed Davis Refinery would likely compromise Theodore Roosevelt National Park's Class 1 Air Quality which is protected by the Clean Air Act and will be able to be seen from within the park.



# AFFILIATE UPDATES

## POWER Members work to “Snuff out Flaring”

In February, Ft. Berthold POWER and students from Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College held a ‘Snuff out Flaring Air Quality Symposium’ in New Town.

Tribal chairman, Mark Fox attended and listened to research presented by students. Soil contamination and the link to clean air quality was presented by faculty. Other issues discussed were mercury levels in Lake Sakakawea fish and how early tests showed that mercury levels were higher in areas closer to development. POWER members presented videos of infrared images (FLIR camera) of venting and leaking gas from storage tanks, etc.

Members of POWER requested that Chairman Fox support the Bureau of Land Management’s Methane Reduction Rule to preserve air quality on the reservation and surrounding areas. Fox stated that he supports the rule.



**RIGHT:** POWER members Shelly Ventsch, Lisa & Walter DeVille, & Thomas Abe with Chairman Fox (Pictured Center)

## “Who are the Water Protectors?” Forum

On January 15, Dakota Resource Council presented our second community forum, this time in partnership with Honor the Earth, called “Who Are the Water Protectors?” at the Bismarck Public Library. About 150 people were in attendance to listen to five water protectors tell their stories and answer questions from the audience. Panelists included DRC Member and Ft. Yates Pediatrician Dr. Sara Jumping Eagle, Sitting Bull College Faculty member Linda Black Elk and Fr. John Floberg of Cannon Ball Episcopal Church. Among the issues they discussed were the importance of clean water for Standing Rock from a health perspective and spiritual perspective, their time at the camps, the hardships being caused by the closure of 1806, and the inaccurate rumor of paid protestors.

**BELOW:** DRC, BARC, & MVRC members Karen Van Fossan, Rita Kelly, DRC Organizer Liz Loos, Ruth Molm, DRC Executive Director, Don Morrison, and DeDe Aaron at the Oceti Sakowin Camp



## Oceti Sakowin Camp Cleanup

With the battle for DAPL now in the courts, beyond the reach of members of DRC, attention of members turned to assisting in the clean-up process of the camp. Members of DRC went to Oceti Sakowin on February 11, 18, and 19 to help clean up. Thousands of pounds of food were sorted and taken to shelters in Bismarck, Minot and South Dakota. A DRC member made a very

compelling video to combat the false stories being portrayed by the local media. The video has been viewed more than 6,000 times. You can view it at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7x6Kw41dqrs>, or by searching “Standing Rock Clean Up Upward Spiral Films” on YouTube.

## Grand Forks County Citizens Coalition

Grand Forks County Citizens Coalition (GFC3) was part of a campaign with Minnesota 350, Honor the Earth, Friends of the Headwaters (of the Mississippi), and the Sierra Club to oppose the Sandpiper Pipeline. GFC3 members attended North Dakota Public Service Commission hearings, Minnesota PUC hearings, Embridge Public Meetings, and lobbied commissioners on the Minnesota Environmental Generic EIS Board – the Minnesota decision makers on the Sandpiper Pipeline. Embridge Corporation dropped the project citing opposition in Minnesota. The Sandpiper Pipeline would have begun in Beaver Lodge, North Dakota and terminated in Superior Wisconsin.

It is still unclear in international markets if wheat subjected to gene editing techniques qualifies as Genetically Modified. GFC3 is reinvigorating its GM Wheat campaign to investigate and address these concerns.



## Spring Membership Recruitment Drive

DRC is a member-based and member-led organization.

DRC members strive to create a prosperous and healthy North Dakota based on respect for our land and our people, a healthy environment, sustainable use of natural resources, and fair markets. DRC members undertake these endeavors by building enduring democratic local groups that empower people.

These tenets were set forth by members and are tenaciously implemented by members every day. DRC members fight hard fights, but many hands make light work. Or at least lighter!

So from now until Earth Day (April 22), DRC is holding a membership recruitment drive and asking that members like you join in this effort. While we're at it, let's have some fun!

- Let's challenge each other to recruit at least one new member!
- Let's challenge ourselves to reach our highest recruitment potential, whether that's 1 or 100!

And if we still need more motivation, maybe the added bonus of PRIZES will help us stay on track!

Please keep an eye out for an upcoming email that will include *what those prizes are, membership recruitment letters, special join forms, and more recruitment tips*. If email is not your preferred communication, call the DRC office and simply ask for a recruitment packet. The more the merrier, and the lighter the load!

## 5 Tips to Start



Before jumping in let's try an exercise. Think back to a time that you donated (time, money, or anything else) to an organization or a cause you deeply cared about. Now think about how you felt when you made that donation. It's a pretty great feeling, right? So when you ask someone to join DRC, remember that feeling and know you are offering that person the chance to have that same wonderful experience.

Now for the action:

- 1) Prepare: Being prepared helps to keep your message consistent & helps if you still have any jitters. Your "elevator pitch" should be a succinct explanation of what DRC is and does in less than 30 seconds.
- 2) Prepare, Part II: Storytelling is a powerful tool, and one we all have. Think about how and why you joined DRC. Ask yourself why it is important to you to be a member. Think about how you want to tell your story and repeat it until you can tell it comfortably in 30-60 seconds.
- 3) Listen: Tightening up your elevator pitch & story are so important, because the best way to recruit is to listen. Try to follow the 80/20 rule, listen 80% of the time, talking only 20%. Again, preparing thoughtful questions ahead of time can really help facilitate this.
- 4) Hard Ask: This one is pretty simple. Try to avoid using "Do you think...", "Would you be interested...", "Could you maybe...", etc. A hard ask is clear & direct, "Will you join DRC today?"
- 5) Follow-up: 90% of organizing is follow-up. Whether they tell you they'll think about it, they will join, or they join on the spot, schedule a time to follow up. Send an email, give them a call, get coffee, or better yet do all three over the week or two after your initial ask!

Keep an eye out for more recruitment best practices & for more information call the DRC office.

## DRC Highlights & Wins

As DRC moves into our 40<sup>th</sup> year, let's reflect on some of our historical wins:

- In 2004, DRC successfully helped prevent genetically modified Wheat from being grown in ND
- DRC has historically played an integral role in creating some of the most effective land reclamation regulations

In 2016:

- Defended family farms, defeating Measure 1 with 75% of the vote
- Set a record of 46 new memberships in 1 month

This Year:

- Revitalized local affiliates BARC & MVRC
- Held incredibly successful media & member generating forums surrounding Standing Rock



## DRC Organizing Values

For 40 years, DRC has been working with landowners, businesses, workers and others to protect our water and air, our land and farmers who grow our food and communities where we live. When it comes to oil and gas extraction in western North Dakota, we must have fair leases, safe setbacks from homes, a strong landowner voice in radioactive waste and pipeline siting, and firm clean up and reclamation plans. We do not have to waste natural gas through flaring. We can have oil development and a good place to live and work.

We've faced industry and state officials who use distracting tactics such as frantic accusations about being "anti-oil" and framing everything as a self-serving and unrealistic choice of "for" or "against" oil. DRC members want it done right. So, local members organize through DRC to influence decision-making on issues that impact their lives and focus on real problems that lots of people understand need to be addressed.

### Upcoming Events

**Earth Day Regional Events:** April 22

**Spring Membership Drive Ends:** April 22

**Board Meeting:** May 13

**Mini POCO:** Location & Time, *TBD*

**Wellstone Action Training:** Location & Time, *TBD*

## How Do We Win?

Imagine a young couple decides to buy their first home. Knowing their resources are limited, they begin researching home owning. Because of limited resources they find the space they need, but it's a bit of a fixer upper. They start learning how to do basic maintenance, knowing these DIY skills will save a lot of money. With their new knowledge & skills, they start acquiring versatile tools (meaning tools that serve multiple purposes, again saving money). In short order and with limited resources this couple is able to turn their fixer upper into their home.

We win when members engage or become active, just as this couple actively educated themselves. We win when members choose to attend trainings, just as our story couple learned home repairs. We win when members use the most efficient tools available, tools accessible through engagement and training.

Our communities and our state have some fixing up to be done, but if we actively participate in DRC, learn new skills, and utilize our tools we too can create the home we envision for ourselves, our neighbors, and those to follow.

### I want to join Dakota Resource Council and affect positive change in North Dakota!

*Please make your tax-deductible check payable to "DRC" and mail to 1200 Missouri Ave, Suite 201, Bismarck, ND 58501. You can also join online and pay with credit/debit at [www.drcinfo.org](http://www.drcinfo.org).*

#### 1. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP (Choose one)

- \$500 Watchdog of the Prairie
- \$250 Sustaining
- \$100 Century Club
- \$55 Household
- \$35 Individual
- \$15 Student/Low income

#### 2. ADD LOCAL AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP(S)

- Badlands Area Resource Council**
- +\$5 Household  +\$5 Individual
- Fort Berthold P.O.W.E.R.**
- +\$10 Household  +\$10 Individual
- Grand Forks County Citizens Coalition**
- +\$5 Household  +\$5 Individual
- McKenzie County Energy & Taxation Association**
- +\$10 Household  +\$10 Individual
- Missouri Valley Resource Council (Bismarck)**
- +\$5 Household  +\$5 Individual
- South Agassiz Resource Council**
- +\$20 Household  +\$10 Individual

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



Dakota Resource Council  
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 Bismarck, ND 58504-5264  
[www.drcinfo.org](http://www.drcinfo.org)

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**Get involved with DRC online!**

Stay up to date on issues in the news through a variety of ways:



**Facebook**

Make sure to "Like" the Dakota Resource Council page and share content about important issues.

[www.facebook.com/DakotaResourceCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/DakotaResourceCouncil)



**Twitter**

Follow our account @DakResCouncil for live tweeting from public hearings and other timely news.

[www.twitter.com/DakResCouncil](http://www.twitter.com/DakResCouncil)



**Online**

Renew your membership, access news archives, and learn about upcoming DRC meetings and events.

[www.drcinfo.org](http://www.drcinfo.org)

**CONNECT WITH US**

**What issues are most important to you as a member? Check all that apply.**

**OIL & GAS**

- Special Waste Landfills
- Pipelines
- Flaring
- Fracking
- Local control
- Oil by rail
- Spills
- State govt accountability
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**AGRICULTURE & FOOD**

- Anti-corporate farming law
- Factory farms/CAFOs
- Sustainable food systems
- Fair/free trade
- Food labeling
- Genetically modified wheat/crops
- Livestock issues (markets)
- Local control of ag zoning
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**CLEAN ENERGY & COAL**

- Clean Power Plan
- Clean/Renewable energies
- Environmental Justice
- Energy efficiency
- Distributed generation
- Green-Blue Alliance/Just transition
- Carbon emission reductions
- Climate change
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**How do you want to hear from DRC?**

- Email only
- Email/postal mail
- Postal mail only

**OUR MISSION:** Since 1978, the mission of Dakota Resource Council has been 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.